

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5878

E.O. 11652:
TAGS: PEPR, IR, CH
SUBJ: PRC-IRANIAN FRIENDSHIP REAFFIRMED

1. PRC FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA, WHO ARRIVED IN TEHRAN JUNE 15 FOR THREE DAY OFFICIAL VISIT, TERMED BILATERAL RELATIONS AS "SATISFACTORY". HUANG WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DELEGATION WHICH INCLUDED MFA'S HO KING KAI, DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS, AND CHOU CHUEH, ACTING DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF WEST ASIAN AND NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

2. HUANG MET WITH GOI LEADERSHIP INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER AMOUZEGAR AND PRINCESS ASHRAF, AN EARLIER VISITOR TO THE PRC. THE SHAH GAVE A LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF HUANG AT NIAVARAN PALACE AT WHICH DISCUSSIONS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA AND REGIONAL COOPERATION WERE HELD IN A "CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE" AND HUANG PRESENTED A MESSAGE TO THE SHAH FROM PREMIER HUA. HUANG TOASTED "THE TIRELESS STRUGGLES OF IRAN FOR HER TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE" AND VOICED CHINA'S DESIRE FOR "A MIGHTY AND PROSPEROUS IRAN".

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3. IN LATER PRESS INTERVIEW HUANG GOT IN A FEW LICKS AGAINST CHINESE PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1. EXHORTING THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES TO UNITE WITH WESTERN NATIONS AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION WHICH HE TERMED "THE COMMON ENEMY WHO WISHES TO CONQUER THE WHOLE WORLD". HUANG REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO SOVIET "AGGRESSIVE AND DOMINEERING

ATTITUDE" IN AFRICA. CONTRASTING THE TWO SUPERPOWERS, HUANG ADDED THAT WHILE THE US IS AN IMPERIALIST POWER IT IS PRESENTLY "IN A DEFENSIVE POSITION WHILE THE SOVIET UNION IS IN AN AGGRESSIVE POSITION: AT THIS STAGE THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD SHOULD BE DRAWN TO THE OPPRESSIVE ATTITUDE OF THE RUSSIANS". (MFA DEPARTMENT HEAD TOLD US CHINESE APPEAR REALLY "HURT" BY SOVIET ATTITUDE AND OUT TO ORGANIZE THE WHOLE WORLD AGAINST THEM. THEY ARE APPARENTLY DISAPPOINTED IN LACK OF U.S. ZEAL ON THAT SCORE, DEPT HEAD ADDED.).

4. EDITORIAL IN AYANDEGAN UNDERLINED VISIT'S TIMELINESS IN VIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA AND AFGHANISTAN AND NOTED THAT THE PERSIAN GULF STATES CONSIDER CHINA AS "A NON-AGGRESSIVE POWER NECESSARY FOR MAINTAINING THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THIS PARTICULARLY VITAL PART OF THE WORLD". FRENCH LANGUAGE JOURNAL DE TEHERAN, IN MIDST OF OTHER PAPERS FULSOME EDITORIAL PRAISE OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, HAD SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT SLANT. REFERRING TO PALTRY AID GIVEN BY CHINA, THE DAILY COMMENTED EDITORIALLY THAT FRIENDLY RELATIONS ARE THE LIMIT OF PRC-IRANIAN TIES: "CHINA IS NOT AN EXPORTER OF ARMS OR OIL OR EVEN OF INDUSTRIAL OR AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT. WHAT IS LEFT FOR IT TO EXERT A POSITIVE INFLUENCE IN THE PERIAN GULF"?

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6. COMMENT: VISIT WAS CLEARLY PART OF WORLD WIDE EFFORT BY PRC TO COUNTER RECENT SOVIETY INITIATIVES. FOLLOWING DIPLOMATIC BREAKTHROUGH IN OMAN, CHINESE HAVE WASTED NO TIME IN SHORING UP RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. NOT COINCIDENTALLY ALL REGIONAL CENTO MEMBERS HAVE BEEN FAVORED WITH HIGH LEVEL PRC VISITOR DURING PAST WEEK, AND WE UNDERSTAND PRC DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER IS DUE IN PERSIAN GULF NEXT MONTH. CHINESE WARNINGS RE SOVIET AGGRESSION ARE NOTHING NEW HERE--ONLY PREACHING TO BELIEVERS.
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